



# BRIDGES TO FRIENDSHIP

# B2F

## WHAT IS BRIDGES TO FRIENDSHIP (B2F)?

*Bridges to Friendship is a diverse consortium of community organizations working together to achieve inclusive community revitalization by leveraging the redevelopment and environmental restoration in and around the Washington Navy Yard. It was founded on the premise that non-governmental organizations, private enterprise, and District of Columbia and federal government agencies can better their services by collaboratively identifying and connecting existing resources and expertise.*

### B2F IS A WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

For example: Covenant House Washington and Naval District Washington, two very different partner organizations, view B2F as a way of doing business and include B2F in their strategic planning.

“B2F is a way to integrate and leverage resources inside the gate with those outside the gate. It’s a better way of doing business and it improves the quality of the workplace for Navy. It is also the right thing to do. Navy has committed to this community that we will endeavor to help them rise with the tide of redevelopment.”

Rear Admiral Christopher E. Weaver,  
Commandant  
Naval District Washington

## WHAT DOES B2F DO?

*B2F acts as a catalyst, convener, facilitator and broker through which pooled resources and expertise are brought together to focus on common goals. We are pursuing these goals through four focus areas, 1) Community Outreach, 2) Youth Outreach, 3) Job Training and Career Development, and 4) Business Development. In addition, organizational development and capacity building, for the partnership as well as partner organizations, are key objectives.*

## BUSINESS AND B2F MUTUAL BENEFITS

- B2F partners include many workforce development organizations with access to extensive job training resources, for example the Youth Opportunity Grants
- The B2F partnership provides a just-in-time community outreach network – at your service
- B2F is soliciting employer direction as to their workforce needs and specific workforce requirements – Employers may use B2F as a mechanism to tailor publicly funded workforce development programs to their needs
- B2F creates a ‘working forum’ for business, non-profit and government organizations to learn, teach and team with one another
- B2F views business as the driver of the economic engine that is transforming SE and SW DC – the same economic engine that depends on a capable workforce to succeed
- B2F is focused on SE and SW DC – much of our target area is in Enterprise and HUB zones, which offer tax incentives to encourage local employment and small businesses development
- B2F is taking a sectoral approach to job training. While our candidates receive ‘lifeskills and job readiness training’ which enables them to move into a broad array of jobs, we are focusing specifically on 1) Environmental, 2) Building Trades, 3) Food Service, 4) Information Technology and 5) Day Care
- B2F envisions training-to-employment pipelines, for each of our focus sectors, to link existing resources, programs and expertise. Our partners have the workforce candidates and training resources and expertise – the employer piece of the pipeline is incomplete – we need you on board
- Please join with us in our commitment to the communities along the Anacostia River, the new soul of Washington DC

**HEADLINES**

Our Environmental Trainees are working at the World Trade Center/Ground Zero cleanup, Pentagon Cleanup and Brentwood Postal Facility Anthrax Decontamination Sites

Environmental Training Class of 17 students Graduated on 12/14 – Over 170 trained to date, over 70% placed

Science and Technology for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders: Starbase Atlantis Poised for Launch from Washington Navy Yard

Bridges to Friendship Facilitated HUD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Presentation to DC Chamber Members

Extending the Partnership to the Workforce Organizations for Regional Collaboration (WORC) and the University of the District of Columbia

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Job Training and Career Development –  
Contact Brian Christopher, Alice Hamilton  
Occupational Health Center, at 301-565-4590

Youth Outreach – Contact Judith Dobbins,  
Covenant House Washington, at 202-610-9788

Business Development – Contact Michael  
Wallach, Anacostia Economic Development  
Corporation, 202-889-5100

Community Outreach: Columbia Rising –  
Contact Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us,  
202-678-1978

Navy Human Resources Office Washington:  
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**BRIEF HISTORY**

The redevelopment and concurrent environmental restoration of the Washington Navy Yard, growth of its federal workforce, and a sincere desire by the community and the Navy to work together, inspired the founding of Bridges to Friendship.

In response to community concerns, the Navy sought to leverage Washington Navy Yard redevelopment and environmental cleanup into jobs for local residents.

The partners, in 1997, agreed to maximize this opportunity into a broader sustainable approach to revitalize the entire community.

Formalized through a simple partnership agreement and based on a strategic plan, Bridges to Friendship launched workgroups in July 1998

**ON THE HORIZON**

In Discussions with Major Food Service  
Employer – Food Service Training  
Organizations, please contact us

B2F is working to support the launch of a Community (citizen, non-profit, business, government) web-based network that will include business features, like co-op marketing and collaborative rebate programs, please contact us to participate

**SUMMARY**

Employers may use B2F as a mechanism to tailor publicly funded workforce development programs to their needs

Bridges to Friendship exists to serve the public and the partners, but cannot exist without partner participation

All are welcome to contribute and benefit -  
Please join with us in our commitment to the communities along the Anacostia River, the new soul of Washington DC